

SELECTBOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2011

Present: Selectperson Denise Lindahl; Selectperson Drexell White; Town Administrator Barbra O'Leary; Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker and Harbor Master Lora Mills.

Harbor Master:

Harbor Master Lora Mills was present to discuss the progress of the mapping project and grant funding as well as other concerns that needed addressing. Mills explained that she still had not made a decision on what program to use for mapping the moorings and that it would be a 40/60 split on the cost between the grant and what the Town would need to cover. She continued by informing the Board that she would have to forward all the bills and statements to Matt Dixon, the overseer of the State grant program, and he would make a determination regarding approval of the expense. Administrator O'Leary told Mills that there were some bills on the warrant ready for Board approval at the end of the meeting and asked if they should be held for Dixon. Mills replied that she would e-mail him all the information and to hold off on payment.

Mills stated that she has not received much support from the Harbor Committee and had received concerns from Jeff Schleicher about use of the Saturday Cove wharf. According to Schleicher fifteen feet of grass has been lost from the edge of the parking lot due to what he believes to be an erosion problem. Board member Drexell White assured Mills that this had been a discussion in past years about the possibility of the bank taking over the parking lot and this was not a new issue.

Mills then mentioned the concern about floats needing repair in the spring and asked if there were any State funding available for that or for placing erosion control barriers. Both White and Board member Denise Lindahl explained that it is a Town obligation and told Mills it would have to be figured into the budget for next year. Mills asked what the budget projection deadline would be, O'Leary told her to have figures ready by mid-March.

Schleicher also told Mills that a Seal Island transport ferry had been using the wharf again and the prop wash from them pulling up to the wharf has created a bowl effect on the harbor floor. He is concerned that the basin may be affecting the channeling of water. O'Leary stated that she was unaware of the continued use of the wharf; to her knowledge the company should have concluded business on Seal Island a year ago. O'Leary said that she would confirm with Taylor Martens, who had been using the transport to get building materials to the island last year. Mills asked if the company was supposed to restore the area to its previous condition when they are done. O'Leary replied that she believed so, but would look into the matter.

O'Leary informed both the Board and Mills that Jason Bird, of the newly redistricted Mid Coast Zone, had recently asked her if the Town had any upcoming projects they were looking into and he mentioned harbors during the conversation. Mills said that she would contact him for more information.

RSU #20:

RSU #20 Superintendent Bruce Mailloux and Budget Committee Chairman Gerald Reid were present to discuss concerns about the upcoming school year budget shortfall. Mailloux explained that with the Districts surplus nearly depleted there is an anticipated two million dollar shortage which could raise the obligation from taxes an additional 14%. He stated that in years past the burden to taxpayers was reduced by funds from surplus and provided a graph of the cost history to the Town of Northport. He

noted that for two consecutive years the Town was fortunate to have a decrease in the financial obligation to the RSU, however he could not guarantee any continuation of that decrease knowing what lies ahead with cutbacks in State and Federal funding. Mailloux assured the Board that they have cut all that they can cut safely, giving examples such as cutting field trips and other extras. He continued with the struggle of whether to hire new staff to replace retiring members or to replace with persons already in house. Mailloux also discussed his ongoing efforts to reorganize the schools as an attempt to consolidate the classrooms and eliminate some unnecessary overhead.

Gerald Reid spoke, adding that expenses are only part of the equation. Reid stated that revenues are considered when setting a budget. He said that two-thirds of the anticipated revenue loss is due to the cuts in State funding. In past years these losses were covered with an unexpended fund balance. Reid continued by stating the figures in population decline both Statewide and with student enrollment adding how they affect how funding is distributed to districts.

Mailloux and Reid both expressed how much work the school board and Superintendent have been putting in to keep increased as low as possible without cutting any programs.

Roads & Bridges:

Plowing:

Plowing contractor Bob Patterson spoke with the Board regarding the last snow storm and issues/concerns with the plowing. Morse stated that there is a problem with Upper Bluff Road since the driveway that had been used as a turnaround in past years was now blocked off. It was decided that the contractor would wait until the end of the storm to plow all the way to the last residence, since the houses on that section were vacant for the winter, and a plan will be discussed with landowners in the spring about building a new turnaround.

Chairman Rooney asked Patterson about tending to the smaller roads and side roads sooner than he has been. Rooney told Patterson about some of the roads he was aware of that were not plowed until the end of the storm, if at all. Patterson explained that he did not do the dirt roads because the ground was not frozen yet. He stated that if he had plowed them he would have dug them up with the plow and damaged them for future use. Patterson added that his drivers have been instructed that if they cannot make a safe pass through a road because of vehicles parked on the sides then they are to not plow it. Patterson said that it is not worth the risk of causing property damage of injury by trying to navigate a narrowed way.

Rooney asked O'Leary to send out courtesy letters to residents of the areas Patterson mentioned asking them to be sure to have their vehicles off the street during storms or they risk not being plowed out. Rooney suggested the Board consider drafting a parking ordinance next year for winter parking.

Salt/Sand Shed:

The contracted electrician hired to do the wiring at the Salt/Sand shed neglected to connect power to the overhead garage door. PDQ Door was willing to connect power to the unit when they arrived to test and set the door. O'Leary said that she informed Bill Lane at Gartley & Dorsky about the unfinished work. O'Leary also informed Lane that the Town would not be paying PDQ Door any extra, those expenses should be covered by the contractor.

Chairman Rooney asked Road Commissioner Amon Morse what the progress was with Farley & Sons screening and transporting the materials from the old site to the new site. Morse stated that Farley had not finished yet, Rooney informed Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker to withhold payment for the old site cleanup from the invoice on the warrant until the project is completed.

Board member Drexell White asked if the 'No Trespassing' signs have been ordered yet, O'Leary said that she would have to check with Deputy Clerk Robin Coombs.

Temple Heights:

Administrator O’Leary informed the Board about the continued e-mails she had been receiving from Ashley Landry regarding his concerns in Temple Heights. O’Leary explained that all the issues he would like addressed should be resolved with the survey the Board decided to have done of the intersection of Mountain Street and High Street, but added that perhaps the survey should also include the width of High Street as Landry believes it has been narrowed. O’Leary continued by stating that it would also help ensure that the easement agreement was still intact after the project.

Rooney asked Morse about the claim Landry made that a particular catch basin is too high. Morse said that F.C. Work & Sons would like to pave around that catch basin creating a taper for water flow to it as well as to the next one.

Chairman Rooney asked O’Leary to send Landry a letter thanking him for his e-mails and ask him to put his concerns in writing. Lindahl and White agreed and asked O’Leary to add that Dan Small will be doing a Survey as requested by the Town and inform Landry that Small is not to disclose any information prior to it being presented to the Board.

Priest Road:

Morse reported that the culverts for Sandra Dyer and Iva Hudson on Priest Road have been replaced and they should be all set.

Beech Hill Road/Bird Hill:

Morse stated that the culvert on Bird Hill that had washed out has been replaced and the shoulder is all rocked in.

Mailbox:

O’Leary asked Morse if he had looked at Leslie Michell’s mailbox on Bayside Road yet. Michell had called and visited the Town Office several times asking that the Town reset her mailbox as it was weakened when the ditching was done. Morse said he had checked it out once and thought it was not a Town issue, but he will go back again.

Animal Control:

Assistant Animal Control Officer Herman Littlefield was present to find out what the Board wanted to do about recent changes in District Court Policy regarding prosecuting for violation of the Barking Dog Ordinance. A summons had been issued to Steve Cummings and, when it came time for the trial, the District Attorney informed Animal Control Officer Heidi Blood that Town Counsel needed to be present. This was a new change that no one had informed the Town about prior to the court date.

O’Leary followed up with Kristen Collins of Kelly & Collins LLC, the Towns Counsel, and Collins had been told by the court that the Town attorney needs to be present but that no ruling could be cited.

Board member Drexell White asked O’Leary to contact the local Representative and to pursue the matter for clarification.

FEMA & Flood Maps:

Administrator O’Leary received both a telephone call and a letter from Nicole Walker of F.E.M.A. notifying the Town that the organization would be in the area updating the flood maps for the Town. Walker told O’Leary that they would be mapping the coast by boat and would be on foot for the remainder of land during the month of December.

Mid Coast Economic Development District:

Jason Bird of the Mid Cost Economic Development District informed O’Leary that he would be willing to meet with businesses and residents about programming that is available.

Ron's Towing:

Town Attorney William Kelly spoke with O'Leary about Ron's Towing. Kelly had mentioned that a State Trooper could shut down the operation for non-compliance if Ron Watkins did not have all the necessary permits and licensing in place.

Mid Coast Regional Planning:

O'Leary received an offer for membership to Mid Coast Regional Planning, soliciting membership. The fee is \$600.00 and they offer technical assistance with ordinance writing and such. Denise Lindahl asked if they would be able to help Harbormaster Lora Mills with her mooring project. O'Leary replied that they can do geographic mapping. Paul Rooney asked if that would result in an additional cost above membership. O'Leary confirmed that it would. Rooney then suggested that the Board table that decision until budget time. Lindahl agreed adding that the funds were not allotted in the current budget.

Budget:

Bookkeeper Vicki Eugley, Administrator O'Leary and Clerk Tucker recently attended a budget class sponsored by Maine Municipal Association. Eugley updated the Board on what information was taken from this class and alerted them to the fact that there will be a change in how the upcoming budget information will be presented to them.

January Meetings:

The Board looked at the need to change the meeting dates for the month of January due to holidays. The Board agreed to change the meeting dates from the 2nd and 16th to the 9th and 23rd.

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

Minutes from the October 17th meeting were approved with corrections.

Under motion by Chairman Paul Rooney second by Denise Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanine Tucker
Town Clerk